

SENATE BILL 497

By Johnson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55,
Chapter 9, Part 1, relative to motor vehicles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-9-105, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

§ 55-9-105.

(a) A person shall not operate a motor vehicle with a television receiver, a video monitor, or a television or video screen capable of displaying a television broadcast or video signal that produces entertainment or business applications, if the entertainment or business images are intended to be visible to the driver while operating the motor vehicle.

(b) A person shall not install in a motor vehicle a television receiver, a video monitor, or a television or video screen capable of displaying a television broadcast or video signal that produces entertainment or business applications such that the entertainment or business images displayed are intended to be visible to the driver while operating the motor vehicle.

(c) The prohibitions contained in this section shall not apply to:

(1) The following equipment when installed in a motor vehicle:

(A) A vehicle information display;

(B) A navigation or global positioning display;

(C) A visual display used to enhance or supplement the driver's view forward, behind, or to the sides of a motor vehicle; or

(D) A television receiver, video monitor, television or video screen or any other similar means of a visual display of a television broadcast or

video signal, if such equipment is designed to help prevent the driver from viewing the entertainment or business application when the motor vehicle is being driven;

(2) Television receivers or monitors used in government-owned vehicles by law enforcement officers in the course of their official duties; or

(3) Computer or other electronic displays or monitors used in utility vehicles by employees of the utility in the course of their official duties; provided, however, such use shall be permitted only while the vehicle is stopped, standing or parked.

(4) As used in this subsection (c):

(A) "Cooperative" means any cooperative providing utility services, including, but not limited to, electric or telephone services; and

(B) "Utility" means any person, municipality, county, metropolitan government, cooperative, board, commission, district, or any entity created or authorized by public act, private act or general law to provide electricity, natural gas, water, waste water services, telephone service or any combination thereof, for sale to consumers in any particular service area.

(d) This section does not apply to local, state or federal law enforcement officers who are engaged in the performance of their official duties.

(e) A violation of this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.